

**Listing of the Claims:**

Claims 1-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said polypeptide may be used in a diagnostic assay.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The isolated polypeptide of claim 16, wherein said polypeptide further comprises an affinity tag.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The isolated polypeptide of claim 17, wherein said affinity tag is selected from the group consisting of: poly-histidine tract, protein A, glutathione S transferase, maltose-binding protein, and an immunoglobulin domain.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (currently amended): An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an amino acid sequence from residue 1 (Met) to residue 19 (Gly) of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) an amino acid sequence from residue 20 (Thr) to residue 104 (Ala) of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (c) an amino acid sequence from residue 105 (Ala) to residue 135 (Gln) of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (d) an amino acid sequence from residue 136 (Ser) to residue 177 (Val) of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (e) an amino acid sequence from residue 178 (Pro) to residue 273 (Ser) of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide may be used in a diagnostic assay.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The isolated polypeptide of claim 22, wherein said polypeptide further comprises an affinity tag.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The isolated polypeptide of claim 23, wherein said affinity tag is selected from the group consisting of: poly-histidine tract, protein A, glutathione S transferase, maltose-binding protein, and an immunoglobulin domain.

Claim 25 (currently amended): An isolated polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said polypeptide may be used in a diagnostic assay.

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (currently amended): An isolated polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an amino acid sequence from residue 1 (Met) to residue 19 (Gly) of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) an amino acid sequence from residue 20 (Thr) to residue 104 (Ala) of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (c) an amino acid sequence from residue 105 (Ala) to residue 135 (Gln) of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (d) an amino acid sequence from residue 136 (Ser) to residue 177 (Val) of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (e) an amino acid sequence from residue 178 (Pro) to residue 273 (Ser) of SEQ ID NO:2,  
wherein said polypeptide may be used in a diagnostic assay.

Claims 28-32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (previously presented): A composition, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a polypeptide of claim 22.

Claim 34 (canceled)